Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-11. (canceled)

12. (new) A method for dynamically configuring a modular machine having machine modules connected to one another and connected to a control device via a communications network, comprising:

determining a second communications partner in the communications network via a first communications partners while the second communications partner is in operation;

generating a suitable communications configuration via the first communications partner; and

activating the generated communications configuration during the runtime of the machine.

13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the modular machine is incorporated in a production process and generation of the communications configuration is initiated by a process event.

14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the process event is an internal event.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the process event is an external event.

16. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the process event is an alarm signaling a new communications partner, an operator input or a change of a communications partner.

17.   (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the generated communications configuration is stored centrally in a server connected via the communications network or non-centrally in one of the communications partners.

18.   (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the communications network comprises a subnetwork with which a second machine module is connected to a first machine module for communication such that the second machine module is connected indirectly to the communications network via the first machine module.

19.   (new) A method for putting a modular machine having machine modules into service, comprising:

configuring an interaction of the machine modules prior to a startup of the modular machine via an engineering system for solving an automation task without taking into account the communications topology of the individual machine modules; and

dynamically configuring a communications network,

wherein the machine modules are interconnected

20.   (new)A modular machine, comprising

a plurality of machine modules;

a control device for controlling the machine modules in an open- or closed-loop manner; and

a communications network with which the control device and the machine modules are interconnected for communication,

wherein communications partners in the communications network are determined and a suitable communications configuration is generated and activated during runtime, and

wherein the communications partners are determine via one of the plurality of machine modules or via the control device.

21.   (new) The modular machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the machine is incorporated in an automation process, the generation of the communications configuration triggerable by an internal or external process event.

22.   (new) The modular machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the process event is an alarm signaling a new communications partner, an operator input or a change of a communications partner.

23.   (new) The modular machine as claimed in claim 22, wherein the generated communications configuration is stored centrally in a server connected via the communications network or non-centrally in one of the communications partners.

24.   (new) The modular machine as claimed in claim 22, wherein the communications network comprises a subnetwork with which a second machine module is connected to a first machine module for communication, so that the second machine module is connected indirectly to the communications network via the first machine module.